

**Liturgy of the Word with Children**  
**29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C**  
**19 October, 2025**  
**Luke 18:1-8**

### **Catechist Background**

People have, throughout history, grown disillusioned with their faith in Christ when things became difficult for them, and have been tempted to turn away from Jesus. Today's Gospel passage reminds us that God's justice does not work according to human timescales, and we should always be persistent in faith.

In the unquestionably patriarchal Hebrew world, women had no public role. Any woman who was without a male protector (father, husband or adult son) like the widow in this story, would have had no standing and thus no power. The community had a duty to take care of her, but justice was not being done. The unscrupulous judge in the story did not administer justice because of a sense of duty, but due to his fear of having to back down to a woman (how embarrassing!).

### **Setting the Scene**

For the activity described below, you will need a centrepiece (such as the Bible but with space around it), and some leaves. If the weather permits, use real leaves from trees, but if none are available, cut leaf shapes out of coloured paper and use them instead.

### **We Say Sorry**

*Leader:* Lord God, you call the weak of the world, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* You call the small of the world, Christ have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

*Leader:* You help us to enter the Kingdom of God, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

### **Gloria**

### **We Pray (1)**

Dear God, help us to be strong in following Jesus and to serve you with joy. Amen.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel:** Luke 18:1-8

### **Reflecting on the Reading with Children**

- Was the judge in this story a good judge? Was he nice? Was he fair? (No)
- Why did the judge finally give in to the woman? Did he want to help her (No, he just wanted her to leave him alone).
- Did the judge follow God or respect other people? (No, he only cared about himself).
- Do you think God is like that judge? (No, God is much kinder and more loving.)

The following questions are of a more sensitive nature. They are important to consider, but they should be approached with care as we don't always know what children have prayed for and whether their prayer has been 'answered' in the way they wished.

- Some people think we can learn about prayer from this story.
- Should we stop loving God if God doesn't answer our prayers in the way we want? (No)
- What would happen if one person was praying for rain so their vegetables would grow, and one person was praying for sun so they were not cold or wet? (People would not be happy!)
- Do you think God needs us to tell God what God should do? (No, God knows everything)

- Why should we pray, then? (Because by doing so we understand more what God wants for us and for others. In prayer, we learn to love each other more and to listen to God. We also understand more that God doesn't always do what we want, but God always responds.)

## Response

Praying to God isn't like a magic spell and it won't make our lives easy:

- Our prayers might be answered as and when we want them to be, but not always;
- Sometimes WE have to change as a result of praying;
- Sometimes our prayers might not be for the right things - what would happen if I prayed for chocolate cake for supper every night? Would that be a good supper every day? (No);
- Sometimes we don't know why things turn out as they do (we can't understand everything);
- However, we need to be like the widow, and to keep trying even when it is difficult, and trust that God will see to our needs.

Autumn can be hard for plants, just like the widow in the story was having a hard time.

- Give each child a leaf, and invite them to put it around the centrepiece one at a time.
- Invite them to say out loud one thing or person they would like to pray for (if they wish).
- *You could gather up the leaves at the end and include them in the Offertory procession.*

## We Believe

Relate the Creed to what you have shared with the children by asking these questions and inviting the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God the Father who loves us very much?
- Do you believe in Jesus, God's Son who protects us from all evil?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who is with us to comfort us?

## We Pray (2)

Again, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying, 'When we pray out loud, we follow Jesus' instructions and so we now pray...'

*Leader:* We pray for leaders in the Catholic Church. May they always do what is right and fair.  
Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for all judges. May they want to deliver justice, and come to wise decisions.  
Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for people like the widow we heard about today who are treated badly by people in authority. May they find people to support them. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for anyone we know who is having a difficult time. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Lord, help us to see the right way to act in our lives, and how to speak out when we see someone in need. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

